

that effort more harm than the mutant and perverted effort at campaign finance reform symbolized by Proposition 226.

In California we spend too much money on campaigns, but at least often, that money is balanced, and often, the interests of corporations are well represented, but the interests of working men and women are represented by organized labor. We need to hear from both sides in California campaigns.

Unfortunately, Proposition 226 is intellectually dishonest. It says that the money of labor union members cannot be spent by labor leaders on political efforts, but at the same time, it welcomes corporate money, money that belongs to shareholders, to be spent on politics by corporate management. What it does is it gives us a lopsided input into California politics.

Mr. Speaker, in the last election we in California raised the minimum wage. We did so because of the input of organized labor and working men and women. I urge Californians to join with the Sierra Club and the League of Women Voters in opposing Proposition 226.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 50 YEARS OF EXISTENCE

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, we around the world, including many Americans, are celebrating the 50th year of the existence of the State of Israel. In fact, a delegation from this House will be traveling to Israel during the Memorial Day recess to celebrate with the Israeli people, yet I am disappointed by many signals that the administration is sending to our ally, Israel, that is one of our staunchest allies among the community of nations.

The Secretary of State was reported to have made ultimatums regarding withdrawal of territory by the Israeli government and people. The First Lady was recently quoted as supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state. The Israeli people are our friends. We should not only celebrate with them, we should demonstrate we are their friend and support their existence.

OPPOSE CALIFORNIA'S PROPOSITION 226

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce the anti-worker initiative on California's June 2 ballot.

Proposition 226 is not a grassroots effort to reform campaign finance and protect the paychecks of California's workers, as its proponents would have us believe. It is a national right-wing effort funded by national organizations to set their agenda: To silence working families, first in our State, and then throughout the Nation.

The primary backers of the California initiative do not even reside in our State. National business, conservative and anti-union organizations, and individuals, in a quest to set a national agenda State-by-State, have contributed more than 60 percent of the funding to the Prop 226 campaign.

Backers include conservative, anti-union groups and individuals such as Americans For Tax Reform and J. Patrick Rooney, an Indianapolis millionaire who chairs the Golden Rule Insurance Company and is a significant GOPAC contributor.

In the past 2 years, working families who participated in the political process won a minimum wage increase, protected medicare from cuts, and saved Federal job safety protections. So now this initiative's proponents are looking for payback.

Please join the League of Women Voters, the Sierra Club, and working families in opposing this anti-worker initiative.

U.S. NEEDS FULL ACCOUNTING OF DAMAGE DONE TO NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on the policy of launching U.S. satellites with Chinese missiles, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger says, "The telecommunications industry has a tremendous need to put satellites up into the air, and that exceeds the launch capacity of the United States."

It is shameful that this administration's answer to the problem was a transfer of dangerous missile technology to a Communist government which has 13 nuclear missiles aimed at us.

I encourage the President to review his budget and that he work with Congress to increase funding for U.S. missile and space launch research. Defense is not an option. The space program is not a luxury.

The United States is the greatest technological and manufacturing nation in the world. Let us build U.S. rockets to launch U.S. satellites and spend what is necessary to maintain our Nation's defense.

Finally, all Americans need to see this administration cooperate fully with the committee of the gentleman from California (Mr. Cox) so that we can have a full accounting of the damage already done to our national security.

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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the principal issue still facing this Congress is the issue of campaign finance reform. Campaign finance reform is so critically important because it influences so much else of what we do in this House and the other one, as well.

In the summer of 1995, the Speaker of this House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NEWT GINGRICH), shook hands in New Hampshire with President Clinton. He promised then that we would resolve the issue of campaign finance reform. Now it is almost 3 years later, and the issue has still not been resolved. Not only that, but we have not been assured that we will have a simple up-or-down vote on the principal bill that seeks to reform the way we finance campaigns, the Meehan-Shays bill.

We need to bring that bill out to the floor. That bill needs to be fully debated. This House needs to have the opportunity to vote yes or no on Meehan-Shays. Let us have that vote as soon as possible, this week, next week, or the week after. Let us have that vote up-or-down on Meehan-Shays.

TOBACCO AND IMMUNITY FOR WITNESSES

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about tobacco. Think about this one minute, those who are cigarette smokers. They may be familiar with the Pagoda Red Mountain cigarette. The Pagoda brand, as Members may know, is the third largest cigarette selling in the world. It is the number one cigarette in China. It is owned by the Communist Chinese government.

The Pagoda Mountain cigarette company has an operative named Ted Sioeng. He gave \$400,000 to the Democrat National Party. His associate, Mr. Kent La, personally gave \$50,000 of the money. He is willing to testify before the Burton committee and just say why a Communist cigarette company was interested in giving the \$400,000 to the Democrats. No big deal. Something we all should want to know. Maybe it is that they just like good cigarette smokers, and recognize the Democrats as such.

But the reality is, 19 Democrats on the committee will not let him speak. They will not let the guy testify. The Democrat Justice Department, the Department of Justice, said they have no problem with immunity and will let Mr. Kent La speak and have immunity, but 19 Democrats say no.

What do the Democrats want to do instead? We heard it this morning. They want to investigate Ronald Reagan. I suggest they have been smoking more than Pagoda Red Mountain cigarettes or whatever it is.